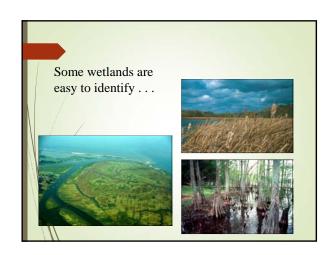
Delineating Aquatic Resources June 2015

Introduction • 5% of the lower 48 states are wetlands and other shallow aquatic habitats. • However, abundance varies by region: • 1% of CA, NV, AZ, NM, UT, KS, MT, and WV • 28% of LA, 30% FL • 45% of AK In the 1600s, over 220 million acres of wetlands are thought to have existed in the lower 48 states. Since then, over half the wetlands in the lower 48 have been drained and converted to other uses.



Why Delineate Aquatic Resources? Help to define the limits of Federal jurisdiction, in accordance with current law, regulations, and policy Determine the area affected by a project, as a first step in impact assessment, alternatives analysis, and mitigation

Relevant Federal Statutes Clean Water Act of 1972 and Amendments Authorized EPA and the Corps to regulate the placement of fill in wetlands and other waters Food Security Act of 1985 and Amendments Authorized NRCS to make wetland determinations under the Act's "Swampbuster" provisions









Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual http://www.usace.army.mil/Missions/ CivilWorks/RegulatoryProgramand Permits/reg_supp.aspx

OC/EL TR-07-2

Regional Supplements to the Wetlands Delineation Manual

- Ten Regional Supplements
- Dozens of agency, academic, and privatesector experts involved
- Replace only certain portions of the 1987 Manual
- Goal is to identify all wetlands, without regard to current regulatory policy
- Current status and products:

http://www.usace.army.mil/Missions/CivilWork s/RegulatoryProgramandPermits/reg_supp.a spx

Environmental Lab



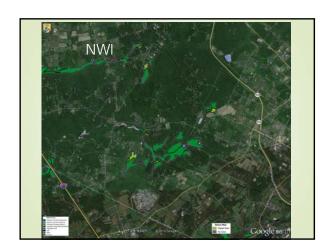
Wetland Definitions Corps/EPA definition - for Clean Water Act Section 404 purposes: Areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or ground water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions.

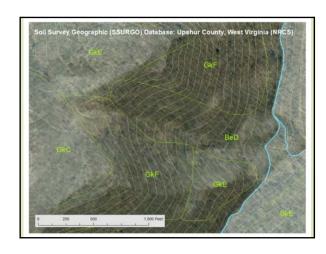
Diagnostic Characteristics Wetland Hydrology Evidence of ongoing wetland conditions Hydrophytic Vegetation Dominated by species that are tolerant of prolonged inundation or soil saturation Hydric Soils Exhibit characteristics that develop under permanent or periodic soil saturation

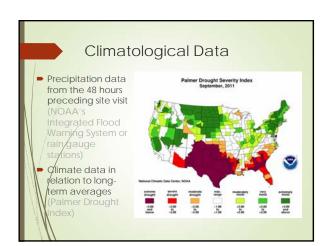
Normal Circumstances The condition indicated by the soils and hydrology on a site, whether or not the vegetation has been altered or removed The long-term condition of the site, including any permitted or other legal alterations

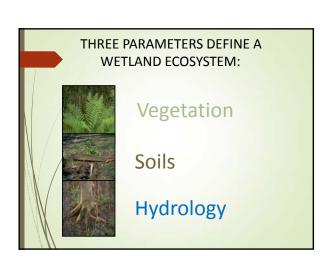








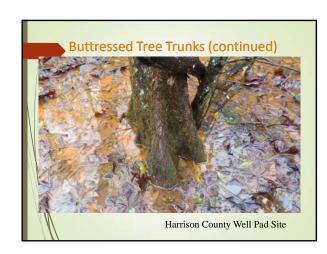


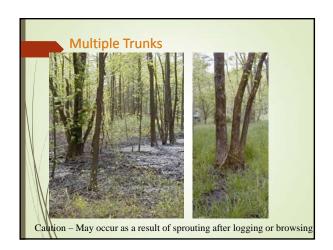


Hydrophytic Vegetation Dominance of vegetation adapted to saturated soil conditions Soggy or waterlogged soils leads to oxygen-deficient conditions Hydrophytes have developed adaptations for life in saturated soils, such as better physical support and better gas exchange

Adaptations Buttressed tree trunks Multiple trunks Swollen bases Hypertrophic lenticels Adventitious roots Shallow roots Acrenchyma Polymorphic leaves Floating leaves Aerial roots Pneumatophores

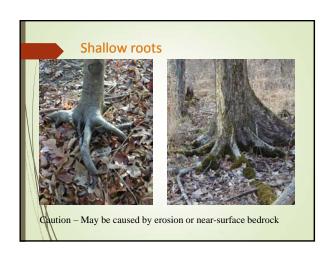


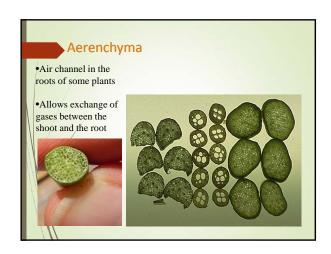




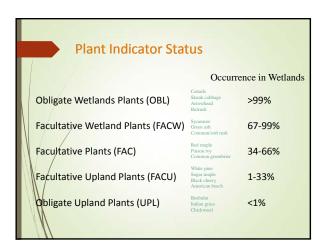


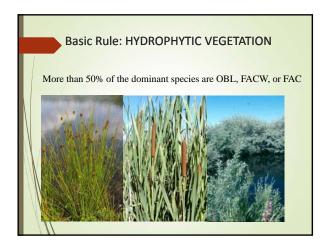






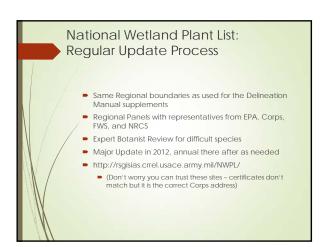


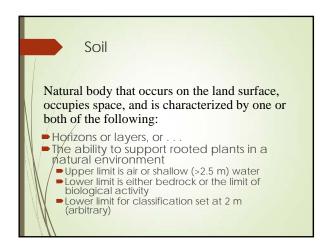


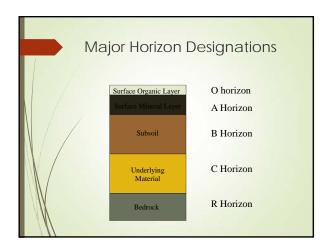


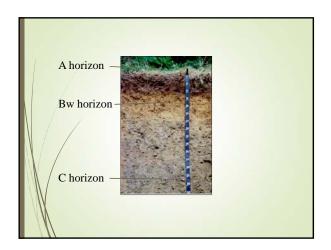
Definitions of Vegetation Strata				
Tree	Woody plants ≥3.0 inches DBH, regardless of height			
Sapling/Shrub	Woody plants \geq 3.2 ft tall but <3.0 inches DBH			
Herb	All nonwoody plants, and woody plants <3.2 ft tall			
Woody Vine	Woody climbing plants >3.2 ft tall			

Tree Stratum (Plot size:)	% Cover	Dominant Indicator Species? Status	Dominance Test worksheet: Number of Dominant Species That Are CBL, FACW, or FAC: (A)			
			That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC:(A)			
3			Total Number of Dominant Species Across All Strata: (B)			
5			Percent of Dominant Species That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC: (A/B)			
		= Total Cover	That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC: (A/B)			
Sapling/Shrub Stratum (Plot size:)		- Total Cover	Prevalence Index worksheet:			
1			Total % Cover of: Multiply by:			
2			OBL species x1 =			
3.			FACW species x2 =			
			FAC species x3 =			
5.			FACU species x4 =			
		= Total Cover	UPL species x5 =			
Herb Stratum (Piot size:)			Column Totals: (A) (B)			
t						
2	_		Prevalence Index = B/A =			
3			Hydrophytic Vegetation Indicators:			
			Dominance Test is >50%			
5.			Prevalence Index is ≤3.0			
6			Morphological Adaptations' (Provide supporting data in Remarks or on a separate sheet)			
7			Problematic Hydrophytic Vegetation* (Explain)			
ß						
0			*Indicators of hydric soil and wetland hydrology must			
10.			be present, unless disturbed or problematic.			
Woody Vine Stratum (Plot size:)		= Total Cover				
(Constant Processes)			Hydrophytic			
			Vegetation			
2			Present? Yes No			
		= Total Cover				

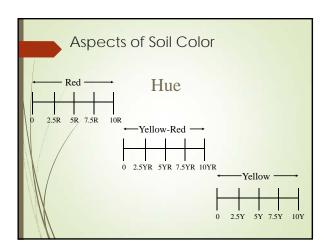


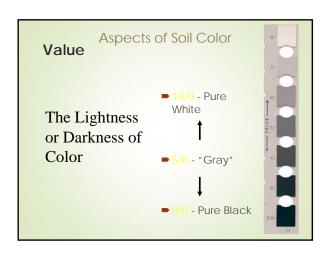


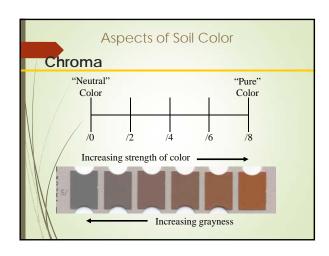




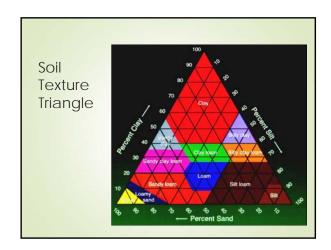
Properties Properties that are important to hydric soil development and recognition: • Color • Organic matter • Texture • Horizonation • Drainage • Permeability

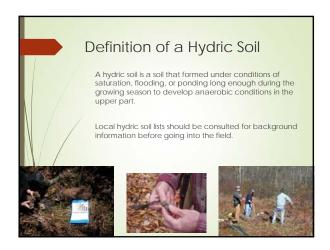


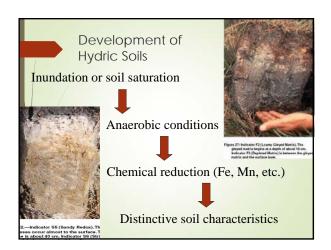


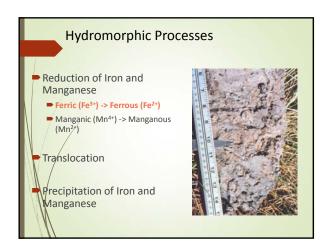






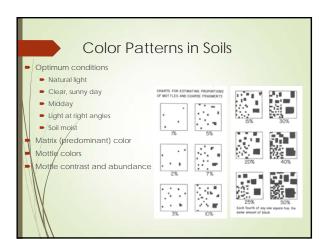




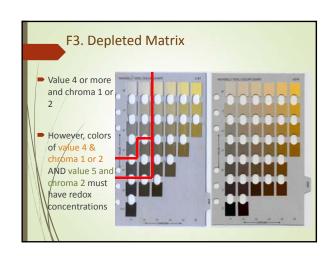


Hydromorphic Processes (cont'd) Accumulation of organic matter Development of thick organic surfaces (peat or muck) or dark organic-rich mineral surface layers Reduction of sulfur

In the wettest sites containing sulfur compounds SO₄²⁻ -> H₂S (hydrogen sulfide gas)



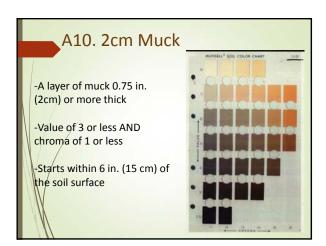


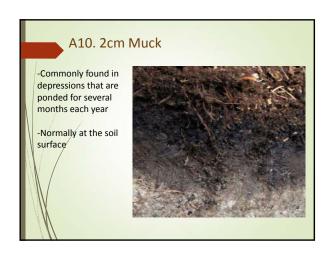




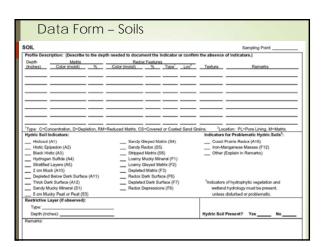


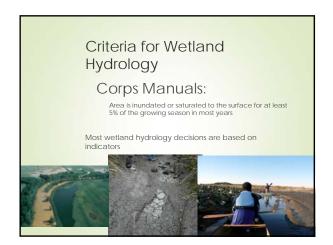


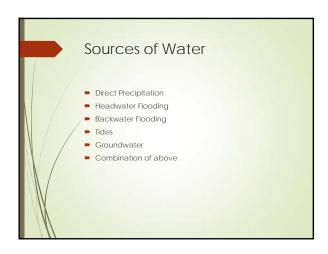


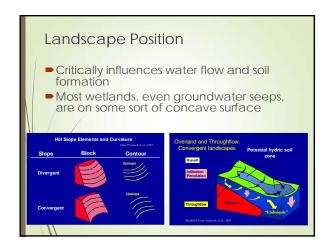


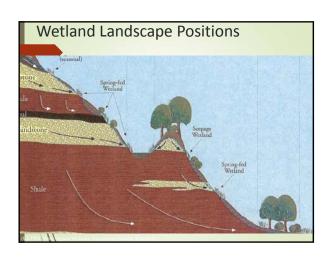


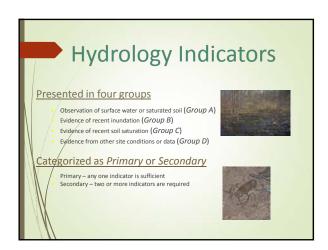


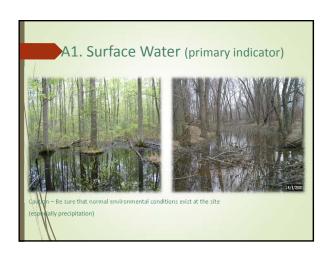






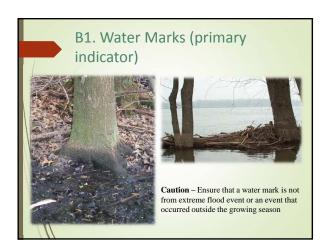




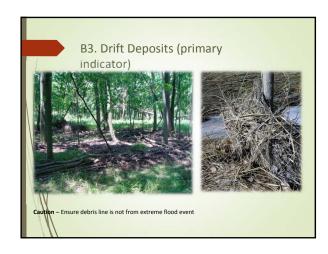


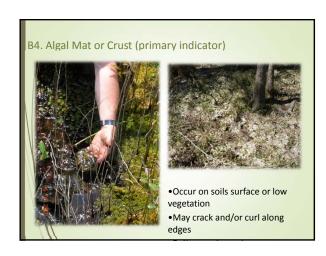


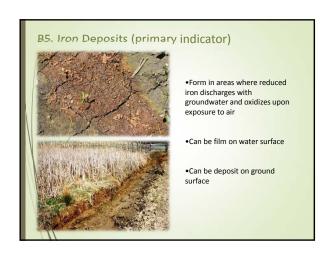


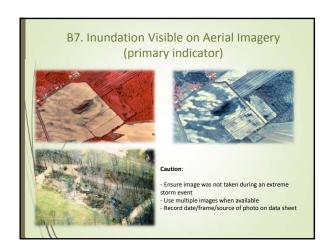




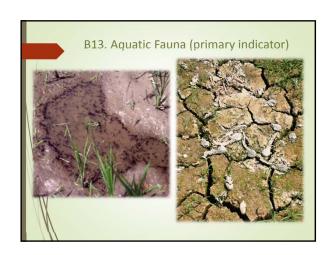


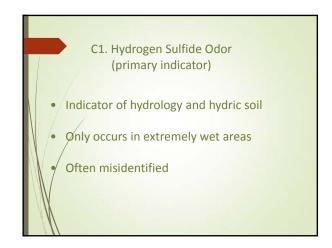


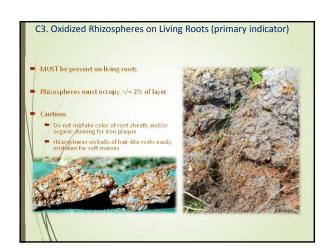


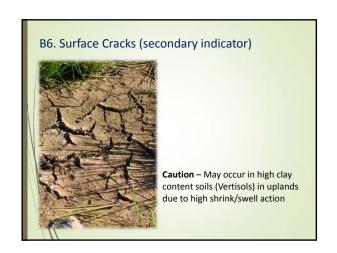


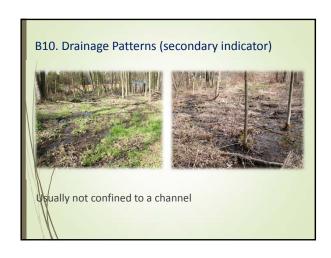


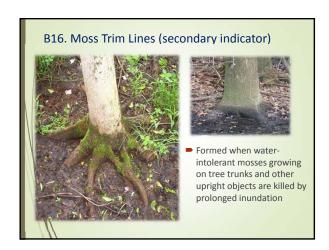


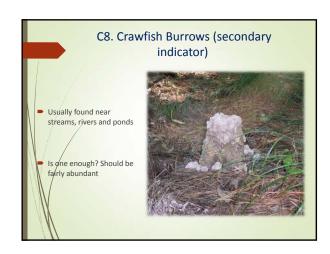


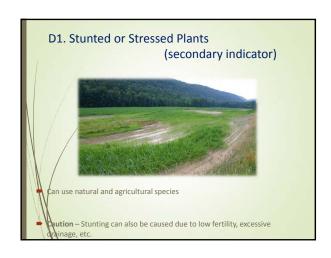


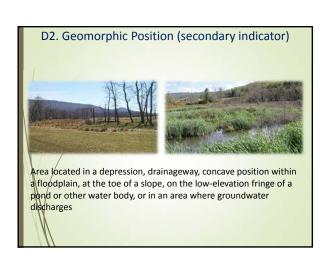


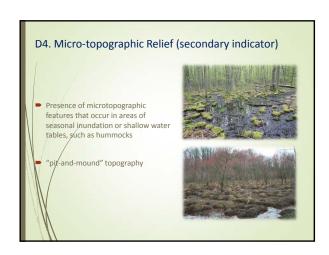












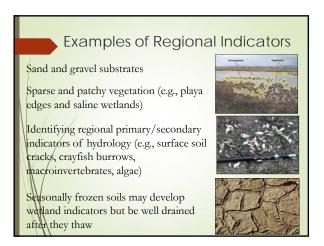
What should I look at to interpret hydrology? Rainfall data and other water data Soil survey (stratigraphy, seasonal water table, soil drainage classes) Landscape position Soil profile and drainage classes Hydrologic features Hydrologic indicators--surface connections Problematic Hydrology: Seasonal hydro-period Parent material Landscape position Recent deposition Newly created wetlands

Meteorological Considerations To interpret hydrologic data or field observations, one must consider antecedent precipitation • pid it rain immediately before the site visit? • Has long-term precipitation been "normal"?

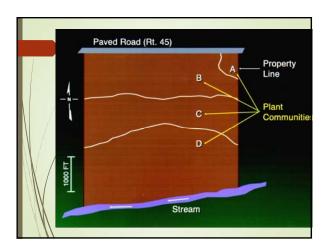
Role of the Technical Standard for Water-Table Monitoring To determine whether wetland hydrology is present on highly disturbed or problematic sites that lack wetland indicators Not intended for routine use or to overrule an indicator-based determination on an undisturbed site Provides standards for the design, construction, and installation of water-table monitoring wells, and the collection and interpretation of data http://el.erdc.usace.army.mil/wrap/pdf/tnwrap05-2.pdf

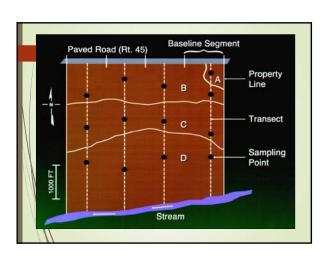
1	ita Form H	ydrology
IYDROLOGY		
Primare Indications (minimum of one is re Surface Whater (A1) High Water Table (A2) Saturation (A2) Water Marks (B1) Sediment Deposits (B2) Drift Deposits (B3) Algal Mat or Crust (B4) Iron Deposits (B5) Inundation Visible on Aerial Imagery Cigarsely Vegethed Concesse Curface Cigarsely Vegethed Concesse Curface	Water-Stained Leaves (89) Aquater Fauna (813) Trus Aquater Fauna (813) Trus Aquater Fauna (814) Hydrogen Suffide Odor (C1) Oxidized Rikzospheres on Livin Presence of Reduced fron (C4) Recent inon Reduction in Tilled : Thin Muck Surface (C7) Gauge or Well Data (D9)	Stunted or Stressed Plants (D1)
Water Table Present? Yes Saturation Present? Yes (includes capillary fringe)	No Depth (inches): No Depth (inches): No Depth (inches): monstoring well, sensal photos, previous inspe	Wetland Hydrology Present? Yes No

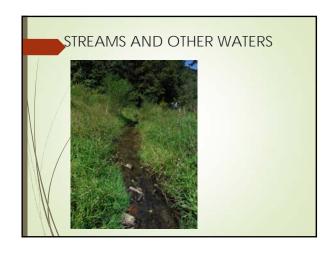
Using cryptogams (mosses, lichens, fungi) in hydrophytic vegetation decisions Dry soils that appear hydric (e.g., gray parent materials) Determining growing season (e.g., leaf-out)











Ordinary High Water Mark (OHWM) Corps/EPA definition - for Clean Water Act Section 404 purposes: Oline on the shore established by the fluctuations of water and indicated by the physical characteristics such as: Oclear, natural line impressed on the bank, Oshelving, Charges in the character of soil, Oclear the character of the surrounding areas

Additional guidance provided by: RGL 5-05 Ordinary High Water Mark Identification http://www.usace.army.mil/Missions/CivilWorks/RegulatoryPrograma.ndPermits/Guidancet.etters.aspx Field guide for identification in the arid west (ERDC-CRREL-TR-08-12) http://el.erdc.usace.army.mil/wrap/pubs.cfm?Topic=TechReport&Code=wrap Western Mountains field guide coming soon

OHWM Delineation RGL 5-05

Physical characteristics that correspond to the line on the shore established by the fluctuations of water may vary depending on the type of water body and conditions of the area.

This list is not exhaustive

No "required" physical characteristics

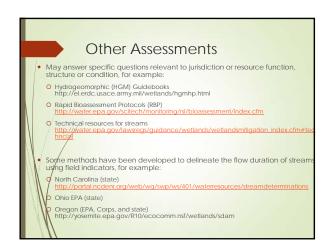
- Generally identify two or more characteristics, unless there is particularly strong evidence of one
- Natural line impressed on the bank Shelving Changes in the character of soil Destruction of terrestrial vegetation Presence of litter and debris Wracking Vegetation matted down, bent, or absent

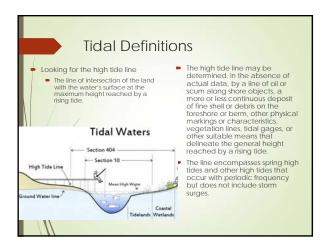
- Sediment sorting
 Leaf litter disturbed or washed away
 Scour

- Scour
 Deposition
 Multiple observed flow events
 Bed and banks
 Water staining
 Change in plant community



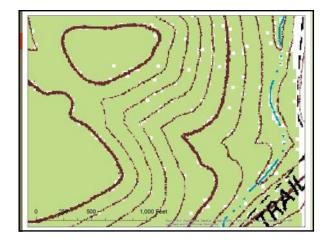












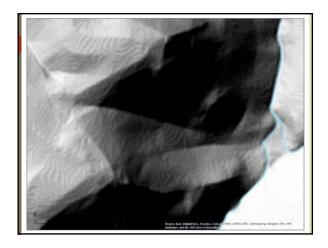


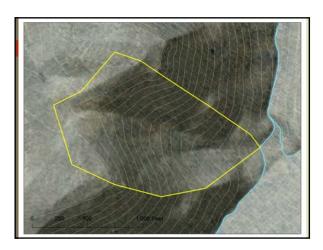
















Useful links Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual http://www.usace.army.mil/Missions/CivilWorks/RegulatoryProgramandPermits/reg_supp_aspx NRCS Wetlands and National Food Security Act Manual http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detailfull/national/water/wetlands/rcd=nrcs143 010939 Corps Headquarters, Regulatory Program http://www.usace.army.mil/Missions/CivilWorks/RegulatoryProgramandPermits/aspx FPA Wetlands Program http://www.usace.ormy.mil/Missions/CivilWorks/RegulatoryProgramandPermits/aspx FWS Wetlands http://www.fws.gov/wetlands/

